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We would like to thank the family of

Timothy Watson

**for the generous memorials given in memory
to Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc.**

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Kevin Brooks
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 11, 2009

4th RIVERBEND CATFISH TOURNAMENT TRAIL

at Alton, IL Marina 3:00 pm – 12:00am

Please call 618-465-6676 for more information.

Monday, July 13, 2009

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Monday, August 3, 2009

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

at Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club

in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 pm

MWHI is sponsoring 4 Youths to attend IFOR Annual Outdoor Youth Skill Camp

Lotus Group Camp at Carlyle Lake

July 24, 25, and 26, 2009

Please contact Scott Bryant at 618-535-0151 (cell) for more details
by July 12, 2009.

Support Your Club! Sign Up a New Member Today!

The *Sentry* is published monthly except for December and January by Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., 2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL, 62002. The *Sentry* deadline is always the second Monday of each month.

Statements and opinions expressed in the *Sentry* are those of the individual and do not necessarily represent the views of Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. Officers, Directors, Advisors, Members or the Editor. The appearance of an ad in this newsletter does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of a product or service. We encourage our members to take note of those businesses advertising in our newsletter and shop with them when they are in the market for their product or services.

Summer Season **Duane Hahnenkamp**

To a lot of duck hunters I know, now is the official beginning of duck season for the year. The days may be hot and the duck hunting won't start for over two months, but working on duck blinds is our summer time hobby for many of us. Hopefully, when you read this around the end of June, your duck blinds won't have river water still standing inside them.

When I started writing this article, the hot weather had finally arrived but the rain and high water still controlled our rivers. I was hoping this would be a normal summer, not like last year when it was August before I could even get into my blind. After over three months of flooding this year, my first hope is that my blind is still in decent shape. Last year, with the late start, we decided to use the old blind that was there. I had to do a lot of remodeling on it, and I am starting to wonder now if the old blind will make it through the next two years. I guess I will have to pray a little when I go around that last bend on the way to the blind to check it out.

About every other duck hunter I have talked to is ready to get started on his duck blind and pothole. Last summer's floods kept some hunters from building their blinds the way they wanted and they now hope to be able to make some changes this summer. It sounds like the Rosedale Office has got things lined up and are waiting on the water too.

Over on the Federal Refuge side, John Mabery will be ready to go as soon as the water drops. John has told me that they could use some help from us with manning the pumps in Swan Lake this summer. He will have a lot of pumping to do this year, so he will need our help during the nights and also on weekends. If any of you want to do something to help hold more ducks in your areas, contact John or me. Your job would consist of watching the pumps and checking the oil levels every so often. You could probably do this and catch catfish in the river at the same time. Over the years I have helped several times with watching the pumps, and it was an experience just watching the wildlife while I was there.

Finally, summer is here and I hope we all get to enjoy some sort of regular summer this year. I have some changes in mind for my pothole this season and hope to spend some time this summer at the blind doing the things that need to get done. Any day now we should be hearing reports on the duck hatch up north. If we get the good duck hatch that I think we will get, then I want to be set up and ready to go when they get here. So bring on the dry weather and I hope to see you all soon at the duck blind or helping at the refuge this summer. As you and I know, duck hunting is a lot more than just a 60-day duck season. ###

Statement By NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and NRA Chief Lobbyist Chris Cox Regarding the Organization of American States Treaty on Firearms Trafficking

Thursday, April 16, 2009

The NRA is well aware of the proposed Organization of American States treaty on firearms trafficking, known by its Spanish initials as CIFTA. The NRA monitored the development of this treaty from its earliest days, but contrary to news reports today, the NRA did not "participate" at the meeting where the treaty was approved.

The treaty does include language suggesting that it is not intended to restrict "lawful ownership and use" of firearms. Despite those words, the NRA knows that anti-gun advocates will still try to use this treaty to attack gun ownership in the U.S. Therefore, the NRA will continue to vigorously oppose any international effort to restrict the constitutional rights of law-abiding American gun owners.

MWHI Wood Duck Nest Boxes Placed around the Big Muddy River

'Going to work around Big Muddy' By Les Winkeler, The Southern, April 9, 2009

Ducks Unlimited chapters from throughout the United States raise millions of dollars every year to improve duck breeding habitat in the prairie pothole region of the United States and Canada.

The Sesser DU chapter has done its part over the years. This year, the club also decided to expand its horizons and help the local duck population as well, installing 30 wood duck nesting boxes around the Big Muddy River.

"I'm a really strong advocate for doing more local projects," said Bob Stairs of Sesser, who helped spearhead the project. "We've already discussed buying more wood duck boxes or mallard nesting boxes.

"A lot of the money we raise from DU goes to habitat up north. We have a lot of local birds that stay here year-round, so I just want to do something locally. We have a ton of wood ducks every year."

Stairs said the purchase of the wood duck boxes was partially funded by Sesser DU and also by donations solicited from the community specifically for the project. The names of donors were stamped on the boxes. The boxes are also emblazoned with a duck emblem and "Sesser DU."

"It's a permanent record - they are the ones that donated the money for it," Stairs said. "It was a win-win for all of us, individuals, DU and migratory waterfowl. Our local chapter went out and put them up two weekends ago."

The wood duck boxes are built by the Alton chapter of Migratory Waterfowl Hunters. Stairs said the galvanized metal boxes are durable and effective.

"It's a perfect nest for them," he said. "They're proven to work. They'll stay dry."

"There are screens in there where the ducks can get out once they've hatched. By them staying dry and having good wood chips in there, there's just a better chance for the hatch to make it. The boxes are designed to last for years."

And the project is a natural for Southern Illinois.

"It is common for wood ducks to nest in this area," Stairs said. "There are a pile of wood ducks that stay in that area along the Big Muddy River. Riding up the river now, there's no telling how many wood ducks you would see. I live on the south edge of Rend Lake and I have about 25 wood ducks on my pond every day."

Wood ducks typically nest from March through May.

Stairs said the club plans to maintain and clean the boxes every year.

"A lot of our members hunt right in that area," he said. "We intend on one or two days during the season, we'll have a group effort after the hunt and clean them out. We plan on maintaining them.

"We stenciled a duck head on them with Sesser DU, they're easily identifiable."

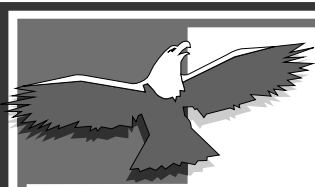
Guy Sink, a DU district chairman from Zeigler, said several area chapters are looking for local projects. He said the Du Quoin club has plans in the work to upgrade the draw blinds at Pyramid State Park. Other activities include sponsoring hunter-safety classes.

"We've decided we're going to hold some other raffles in the off season away from our banquet," Sink said. "That's money we can do things with."

"I've had a lot of comments from people. Now, more and more people I've been talking to have been interested because it is a little closer to home."



Mike Minert (right) fastens a wood duck box to a tree with assistance from Bob Stairs.



Pro-Gun Reform Bill Heading to Governor's Desk in Illinois!

NRA News Release, Friday, May 29, 2009

Please Contact the Governor Today!

House Bill 182 passed the Illinois House today by a vote of 90-28. The bill now heads to the desk of Governor Pat Quinn (D) for his consideration.

This legislation would simply change the Unlawful Use of Weapons (UUW) law, adding "dwelling" to the list of exemptions in which a law-abiding citizen is restricted from carrying a firearm. While "abode" is currently one of the exempted areas, under Illinois law, "abode" is strictly interpreted to mean only one's actual home, and applies only to those who live there. By adding "dwelling," the exemption is expanded to allow for situations such as visiting a family member's home, going target shooting at a friend's farm, or having a gun for personal protection within a hotel room.

Please contact Governor Quinn TODAY and respectfully urge him to sign this critical reform.

23 State Attorneys General To Attorney General Holder: "No Semi-Auto Ban"

NRA News Release, Friday, June 12, 2009

On June 11, the top law enforcement officials of nearly half the states signed a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, expressing their opposition to reinstatement of the federal ban on semi-automatic firearms.

"We share the Obama Administration's commitment to reducing illegal drugs and violent crime within the United States. We also share your deep concern about drug cartel violence in Mexico. However, we do not believe that restricting law-abiding Americans' access to certain semi-automatic firearms will resolve any of these problems," the letter said.

The letter notes congressional opposition to bringing back the ban, and calls for increasing enforcement of We encourage NRA members to let these state officials know we appreciate them standing up to the

incessant clamor for gun control that is currently coming from anti-gun groups and their media allies.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

NRA Update on Gun Bills **1-800-392-8683**

Federal Senate Office **1-202-224-3121**

Federal House Offices **1-202-225-3121**

Illinois State Rifle Association **1-815-635-3198** www.isra.org

Illinois Senate Information **1-217-782-4517**

Illinois House Information **1-217-782-8223**

Sen. Deana Demuzio – 49th District
Tel: 217-854-4441 Fax: 217-854-5311

Sen. Kyle McCarter – 51st District
Tel: (217) 428-4068

Sen. John O. Jones – 54th District
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Sen. William R. Haine – 56th District
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Sen. James F. Clayborne – 57th District
Tel: 618-875-1212 E-mail: clayborne@senatedem.il.us

Sen. David Luechtfeld – 58th District
Tel: 618-243-9014 E-mail: sendavel@midwest.com

Rep. Jim Watson – 97th District
Tel: 217-243-6221 E-mail: jimwatson@localnetco.com

Rep. Gary Hannig – 98th District
Tel: 217-839-2859 E-Mail: hannig@hdsmail.state.il.us

Rep. Ron Stephens – 102nd District
Tel: 618-667-8669 E-mail: stephens@apci.net

Rep. Kurt Granberg – 107th District
Tel: 618-533-2153 E-mail: kgranberg@hdsmail.state.il.us

Rep. Jay Hoffman – 112 District
Tel: 618-345-2176 E-mail: jayhoffman@charter.net

Rep. Thomas Holbrook – 113th District
Tel: 618-394-2211 tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us

Rep. Wyvetter Younge – 114th District
Tel: 618-875-1691

Rep. Mike Bost – 115th District
Tel: 618-457-5787 mikebost@midwestmail.com

Rep. Dan Reitz – 116th District
Tel: 618-443-5757 E-mail: dreizt@egyptian.net

Costello - jfc.il12@mail.house.gov

Durbin - dick@durbin.senate.gov

Shimkus - <http://www.house.gov/shimkus>

Delayed Goose Production in 2009

Ducks Unlimited Report

From a duck perspective, the record snow cover in portions of the prairies in 2009 signaled an optimistic outlook for production. Resulting wet conditions in the U.S. prairies and into portions of southern Canada should be favorable for ducks that have arrived already to begin the 2009 nesting season. The same is not true, however, from the standpoint of geese arriving on northern breeding grounds.

Dr. Robert "Rocky" Rockwell arrived in Churchill, Manitoba early enough to gear up for the 2009 field season at the La Perouse Bay snow goose camp on West Hudson Bay. He's been delayed, however, by late spring snows, cold temperatures, and virtually no nest initiation to date. And, based on Rocky's report from an extensive survey during the first week of June, when he flew from Churchill, Manitoba to York Factory, and back to Churchill (see map), it looks like northward movement of geese is at a standstill.

He reported 5-10 million birds "stacked up" in this small region—an indication that few birds have ventured further north. Extensive snow cover, land-fast ice on the Hudson Bay coast, and ice-covered lakes predominate, and geese are still waiting for nest sites to show up.

According to Dr. Andy Raedeke, Resource Scientist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, his departure to northern Manitoba for 2009 surveys of Canada geese has been delayed by one of the coldest and snowiest years in several decades.

Although these early observations represent only a portion of the eastern Arctic, they provide some initial expectations for goose production – not all that good! Snow cover maps indicate that these later conditions may extend well into the Central Arctic.

When geese arrive on the breeding grounds in late years like 2009, they have to rely on body reserves stored prior to northern migration. The result is delayed nesting, fewer birds attempting to nest, lower clutch sizes, poor nest success and a fall flight with fewer immature geese.

In view of light goose numbers that are well above population objectives, a bust in production is not entirely bad news. Concerns remain, however, about production of Canada and white-fronted geese and other waterfowl and migratory birds that nest in these northern areas.

We'll have to wait for survey results from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, and state and provincial cooperators before the outlook for 2009 is clear. But, early indications are good for ducks and not so good for geese. ###

Ohio Statehouse Going to the Hogs?

PETA Wants to Set Up a Hog Farm on Capitol Grounds
U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance 6/17/09

PETA wants to add an experience those going to the capitol of the Buckeye state will never forget: the smell of hog urine and manure.

That's right; PETA has said in statement that they are seeking a permit so they can set up a hog farm on the Statehouse grounds in Columbus, Ohio. As part of PETA's proposed plan, it would use "gallons of urine, tons of manure, and a fan to blow the odors around."

This all part of PETA's plan to "educate" lawmakers and the public as to the conditions of "factory farming" in Ohio, one of the top hog farming states in the country, and to promote a vegetarian diet.

A spokesperson for the agency that approves permits for events on Statehouse premises has indicated that there is no chance PETA will get its permit approved.

Ducks Unlimited donates Illinois River property to Department of Natural Resources *New site will serve as waterfowl refuge and waypoint on National Scenic Byway*

East Peoria, Ill.- Feb. 21, 2009 - Ducks Unlimited (DU) donated 370 acres along the Illinois River to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today during its annual state convention in East Peoria. A crowd of about 250 DU volunteers were on hand to applaud IDNR Director Marc Miller as he signed an agreement accepting title to the property on behalf of the state agency.

The property, known locally as Wightman Lake, is approximately 20 miles north of Peoria near Sparland, IL. Over the past three years, Ducks Unlimited has invested more than \$400,000 in habitat improvements to turn Wightman Lake into a wetland conservation showcase. Designed for use by both waterfowl and people, the project represents a new era of cooperation between Ducks Unlimited and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

“Our members are delighted with the renewed commitment to conservation that Director Miller has helped bring to IDNR,” says Eric Schenck DU Regional Biologist. “Partnerships like the one here at Wightman Lake have become increasingly important to Ducks Unlimited.”

In addition to serving as a waterfowl refuge, Wightman Lake is designated as a “waypoint” on the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway. At

Wightman Lake travelers will have a chance to observe 84 species of birds as well as the decurrent false aster, a federally listed threatened plant that flourishes in DU’s restored wetlands. Part of the tourism experience will include a lesson on the State Wildlife Action Plan—a statewide blueprint for conserving fish and wildlife in Illinois.

Sensitive to the budget issues that IDNR currently faces, Ducks Unlimited has agreed to continue management oversight of the property during a three year transition period. This will provide time for newly restored habitats to become fully established and to phase in public access that is expected to help boost the local economy.

Commenting on the donation, IDNR Director Marc Miller stated, “IDNR is very appreciative of this generous conservation gift and we look forward to working closely with Ducks Unlimited on other projects in the future.”

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization with almost 12 million acres conserved. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands - nature’s most productive ecosystem - and continues to lose more than 80,000 wetland acres each year. ###

Hunters Bag 15,488 Birds During 2009 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season

Slight decrease from 2008 - IDNR News Release 5/20/09

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. – Hunters in Illinois bagged a preliminary statewide total of 15,488 wild turkeys during the 2009 Spring Turkey Season, a slight decrease from last year’s spring turkey harvest of 15,792.

The 2009 total is higher than the 2007 statewide turkey harvest of 14,766. Hunters took a state-record 16,605 turkeys during the spring season in 2006.

Hunters this spring took a preliminary total of 6,353 wild turkeys during all seasons in the South Zone, an increase from the harvest of 6,287 last year in the south. The North Zone total of 9,135 wild turkeys was down compared with last year’s total of 9,505. The 2006 record harvests were 6,530 in the south and 10,075 in the north. The results include harvest during the Youth Turkey Seasons.

“Given the poor turkey reproduction during the past few years, and wet weather through much of the spring, our turkey harvest totals are as expected,” said Paul Shelton, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forest Wildlife Program Manager. “Our statewide total of 15,488 compares pretty well with the average of 15,625 for the previous five years.”

The top five counties for turkey harvest in the South Zone this spring were Jefferson (363), Randolph (352), Pope (332), Marion (329), and Wayne (325). The top five counties for spring turkey harvest in the North Zone this year were JoDaviess (612), Pike (549), Adams (421), Fulton (417), and Macoupin (351). ###

Montana's New Gun Law

ISRA, Don Bekeleski

I was sent this information below in an email and really thought it was great that a state legislature would stick up for it's citizens 2nd Amendment rights and that it would defy the federal government to do it. What am I talking about?

The Governor of Montana has signed into law a very controversial law declaring guns and firearm accessories made in Montana that stay in Montana, are not subject to federal intervention, because it does not involve interstate transportation of firearms. I have included the portion that I received at the bottom of this article and the link to the actual bill.

This could be a way for states to retain their 2nd Amendment rights when the federal government is depriving citizens the right guaranteed by the Constitution! This could be the pathway to people owning and having firearms for protection and sport within their own individual states. I believe it was best stated in the words below as to what this would do. Yes Virginia there is a light at the end of the tunnel we are in!!

Executive Summary - The USA state of Montana has signed into power a revolutionary gun law. I mean REVOLUTIONARY. The State of Montana has defied the federal government and their gun laws.

This will prompt a showdown between the federal government and the State of Montana. The federal government fears citizens owning guns. They try to curtail what types of guns they can own. The gun control laws all have one common goal - confiscation of privately owned firearms.

Montana has gone beyond drawing a line in the sand. They have challenged the Federal Government. The fed now either takes them on and risks them saying the federal agents have no right to violate their state gun laws and arrest the federal agents that try to enforce the federal firearms acts. This will be a world-class event to watch. Montana could go to voting for secession from the union, which is really throwing the gauntlet in Obama's face. If the federal government does nothing they lose face. Gotta love it.

The above in italics was taken from the link below and the author has more to say: <http://www.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleId=281474977674743>

Here is a link to the actual bill: <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2009/billhtml/HB0246.htm>

###

Take action on your late FOID

Illinois State Rifle Association, 2/2009

The ISRA issued a press release on January 23rd, 2009, concerning the failure of the Illinois State Police to issue the FOID or provide an explanation for denial within 30 days of receipt of the application, as provided for by Illinois law.

The ISRA is working on the problem, but that doesn't immediately help those awaiting a new FOID or a FOID renewal. If you are waiting for your FOID and you sent in your application 30 days ago or more, please follow these steps:

1. Call the ISP Police Firearms Services Bureau at 217-782-7980 and make an inquiry into the status of your card. Disregard any recorded message that tells you not to bother unless you've been waiting more than 56 days. It's your rights that have been put on hold, it's your freedom that is put in jeopardy, it's your prerogative to call and ask for action.

2. Call your Illinois Representative and Illinois Senator at their Springfield offices and inform them of your difficulty getting your new or renewed FOID. It is very likely that your call will be answered by a secretary. Always be polite to the secretaries, they're your portal to the legislators. Provide details on your situation: when you sent in your application, date your check cleared, etc. Ask for the legislator to make an inquiry on your behalf. It's important for the legislators to know that the FOID delays are impacting citizens in their districts.

###

Letter to the Editor:

I have been a member of MWH since 1972. Shortly after I joined, the club started up the Migratory Waterfowl Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and I was asked to join the committee. At that time, the committee was comprised mostly of board members, who were also charter members of the club, several regular members, and Bob Rohr Sr. as chairman.

Club membership, at that time, was nothing like it is today; however, we had some very successful D.U. banquets. The banquets were held at the Lewis and Clark Restaurant in East Alton and attendance usually exceeded four hundred. Granted D.U. chapters certainly were not as prevalent then as they are now and waterfowlers from a four county area looked at this as a very special annual event.

In 1981 I was asked to help organize, and chair, a D.U. committee in Jersey County. My involvement with D.U. shifted at that time yet I still made it to many of the Migratory D.U. banquets over the years. As the years went by, it seemed that interest in D.U. and the annual banquets went steadily downhill, and a very apparent split was occurring between MWH and D.U. Last years banquet that was held at the Godfrey K.C Hall had less than one hundred and fifty attendees, no sponsors, and a disappointing amount of net income.

I was appointed District Chairman for Ducks Unlimited in January. My district is comprised of Jersey, Calhoun, and Madison counties. During my first meeting with D.U. Regional Director Jon Sturgill, revitalizing the Migratory Chapter of D.U. became an immediate and top priority. Shortly after that meeting I started trying to figure out why this decline, and split, has happened. I have asked questions and probed for answers but cannot really pinpoint the problem, or problems that caused the noticeable, and gradual, split between MHW and D.U. I know that at some point a decision was made by someone to change the chapter name to the Alton D.U. Chapter. That was never formally done and will not be done. It is still the Migratory Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and will continue to be. After discussing this problem with some of the MWH board members, we have a renewed commitment from the club to get the board of directors, and general membership, back on board with Ducks Unlimited like it needs to be.

We as waterfowlers have to realize that the two most important organizations, with regard to our sport, are MWH and Ducks Unlimited. MWH for the tremendous job that they do on the local and state level when it comes to protecting our hunting areas and monitoring legislation, and D.U. for putting more ducks in the sky. And that is what it's all about. Filling the skies with ducks has always been, and will always be Ducks Unlimited's sole and

singular purpose. I have been asked several times why Ducks Unlimited doesn't get involved in certain things, and it's usually political agendas. D.U. has always had a motto, "singleness of purpose". That singleness of purpose is to provide, protect, and enhance as much waterfowl habitat as possible, whether it be nesting habitat in the prairie pothole region, or rest areas and wintering grounds up and down the flyways, such as our own Swan Lake Refuge project. What we have to realize is that D.U. is funded mostly from donations and fund raisers, and many of these donors are not even waterfowl hunters. Stepping on toes by getting into political battles is not in their best interest and they avoid this problem by sticking to their "singleness of purpose" philosophy.

D.U. is the premier waterfowl conservation organization in the world, and their effective management, and preservation of our waterfowl resource has been evident over the years with 87 cents out of every dollar raised going directly into projects. I guarantee you that without D.U. and their contribution to our waterfowl resource over the last seventy plus years, we wouldn't be having sixty day duck seasons and six duck limits like we enjoy today. If the ducks don't come down the flyways, then everything else that we do for our sport is in vain. If you love your sport of waterfowling and want to protect that resource for yourself, your children, and grandchildren, then it is imperative to support Ducks Unlimited. And if you want to continue to enjoy some of the best public hunting areas in the country, and have a voice in this State when it comes to our sport, it is also imperative to continue to support Migratory Waterfowl Hunters. Let's make them both top priorities in supporting our waterfowl resource and our sport of duck hunting.

I spoke earlier about revitalizing the Migratory Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Well we are definitely getting it done. We have new co-chairmen, several new committee members, and some fired-up old timers that are still on the committee. We are planning on giving away a lot of nice guns, having a great meal catered by The Brass Door from Carrollton, and the chairmen have put together a tremendous Sponsor Package that every serious waterfowler should consider. I hope you all stay on, or get back on, the D.U. bandwagon by attending this years **Migratory Waterfowl Chapters D.U. banquet that will be held on August 15th, 2009 at the Godfrey K.C. Hall.** Let's fill the hall so we can help fill the skies with ducks. Please contact Scott Dorris at 618 467-0864, Rob Bockstruck at 618 466-5171, myself, or any committee member for tickets, details, or any questions that you have.

Thanks from the ducks, and let's all help make this banquet a tremendous success,

Denny Ward, Ducks Unlimited District Chairman, Ph. 618 498-9855

ISRA URGENT ALERT -- YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED 6/12/09 GUN CONTROL GROUPS WANT YOU ARRESTED, TRIED, AND JAILED FOR TOUCHING GUNS

In a strong show of bipartisan support earlier this spring, the Illinois General Assembly overwhelmingly passed HB182. This important piece of legislation clarified ambiguities in the unlawful weapons use statutes. These clarifications ensured that law-abiding citizens would not accidentally violate the law while preserving the justice system's ability to arrest and try violent criminals.

As you might expect, the gun-control extremists are blasting the General Assembly for making these reforms. The gun grabbers are mounting a campaign to have Governor Quinn veto HB182.

WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO YOU IF GOVERNOR QUINN VETOES HB182:

1. You would not be able to handle a firearm in any manner outside your own home, a gun shop, or gun range.

2. Let's say you were invited to a birthday party for your friend Hank. Let's say that one of Hank's gifts was a new shotgun. Hank notices you admiring the shotgun and hands it to you so that you could examine it. If Gov. Quinn vetoes HB182, then you could be subject to arrest and felony prosecution for handling Hank's new shotgun -- even if you possess a valid FOID.

3. Let's say your buddy Bill asks you and Hank to come down to his farm for a day and for you to bring a couple of rifles with you for some good old fashioned plinking. If Gov. Quinn vetoes HB182, then you and

Hank could be subject to arrest and felony prosecution for plinking on Bill's farm, despite the fact that Bill gave you permission and despite the fact that you possess a valid FOID.

4. Let's say you're on the road and stop off at a hotel in a seedy part of town. Once inside your room, you unpack and load a pistol and place it on the hotel room nightstand. If Gov. Quinn vetoes HB182, then you could be subject to arrest and felony prosecution for preparing to protect yourself within your hotel room.

Once again, we see that the primary interest of the gun control movement is to harass law abiding gun owners.

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO PROTECT YOUR GUN RIGHTS:

1. Call Governor Quinn's Office as soon as possible at (312) 814-2121 and POLITELY tell the person who answers the phone that you are a law-abiding firearm owner and that you are tired of being treated like a criminal. Politely tell the person that you would like Governor Quinn to sign HB182 into law at his nearest convenience.

2. Pass this alert along to all your gun owning friends and neighbors.

3. Post this alert to any and all Internet blogs or bulletin boards to which you may belong.

REMEMBER -- GUN CONTROL IS A DISEASE -- YOU ARE THE CURE!

Another "Fishy" Stunt by PETA

6/10/09

PETA wants to start buying lighthouses and convert them into "fish empathy centers."

PETA has let the National Park Service (NPS) know that it like to purchase several lighthouses including ones in Michigan, New Jersey, and Wisconsin so they can used to let people know that fish have emotions, personalities and feel pain.

Unsurprisingly, the NPS hasn't responded.

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